

National Water Division Directors Meeting
September 7 – 8, 2017
EPA Headquarters, Room 1153 East

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GenX: DuPont/Chemours, Washington Works, WV

In its manufacturing of Teflon at the Washington Works facility in West Virginia, DuPont started using GenX sometime around 2012 – 2013 as a replacement compound to PFOA. While the two compounds are similar in some ways, GenX, (unlike PFOA) clears from the body very rapidly. WPD was informed that approximately 1-2 ppb GenX is discharged in the outfall to the Ohio River. A 2009 EPA consent Order with DuPont required the company to recover or destroy at least 99% of GenX in its emissions at Washington Works. A HQ TSCA consent Order between WVDEP and DuPont (now Chemours) issued in 2011, allows Chemours to discharge GenX in its wastewater at up to 17,500 ppt and the compound has been identified in concentrations as high as 100 ppt in nearby ground water and surface water. DuPont has conducted a number of toxicity studies on GenX and finds it to be considerably less toxic than its predecessor PFOA. However, this finding has been challenged by other scientists who believe that more research needs to be conducted. The monthly NPDES Discharge Monitoring Report includes monitoring results for GenX. The facility spokesperson said GenX is persistent in the environment but the primary benefit of GenX is that it eliminates from the body very quickly (24 hours) unlike PFOA which has a half-life of 2-5 years. Air emissions are dramatically reduced (99+%) due to state-of-the-art scrubbers at Washington Works.

There is also considerable concern about other GenX analytes which have been identified in the Cape Fear River, downstream of the Fayetteville, NC facility where Chemours manufactures GenX. Some of the analytes have been measured at levels much greater than GenX. EPA has not yet established a drinking water regulation or health advisory for GenX or any of its analytes. The State of North Carolina has set a health goal concentration of 140 ppt for GenX in consultation with EPA.

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

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